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for

A REPORT
OF THE
FORMATION OF A
METHODIST
Missionary Society,

FOR THE
NOVA-SCOTIA DISTRICT,
At a Public Meeting held at the Methodist Chapel,
HALIFAX:

On the third of June, 1817.

With the RESOLUTIONS which were proposed and carried.—Together with a short

ADDRESS,

TO the INHABITANTS of NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK, and
PRINCE-EDWARD ISLAND.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED:

Important and interesting Extracts from a

R E P O R T

Recently published in England, and a LIST of the
FOREIGN STATIONS, of the METHODIST MISSIONARIES, &c.

HALIFAX:

PRINTED BY EDMUND WARD, 1817.

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THE FORMATION OF A METHODIST
Missionary Society,

*At Halifax, for the District including Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick,
and Prince-Edward Island.*

ON Tuesday June 3, 1817, at a numerous and respectable Meeting, held in the Methodist Chapel, at Halifax, a Society was formed, denominated "*The Methodist Missionary Society for the District of Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.*" The first Society of this kind instituted in these provinces.

In the evening at half-past seven o'clock, the Revd. Mr. Bennett opened the Meeting with singing and prayer; after which the Revd. Wm. Black was unanimously called to the chair.

The attention of the Meeting was excited by the worthy Chairman, and kept awake with great interest by the appropriate Speeches of the several gentlemen, who moved and seconded the respective Resolutions, as follow, viz:—

On the motion of the Revd. Wm. Bennett, seconded by Mr. Alexander Anderson, *Resolved unanimously,*

1. That this Meeting most heartily approves of the Missions first established by the late Revd. John Wesley, Dr. Coke, and others, and now carried on under the direction of the people called Methodists.

On the motion of the Revd. James Knowlan, seconded by Mr. Samuel Sellon, *Resolved unanimously,*

2. That on account of the increased and increasing extent, importance, success and expenditure of the said Missions, it appears to this Meeting highly expedient to form a Society in this district, for the express purpose of augmenting the Funds, by which these benevolent undertakings are supported.

On the motion of the Revd. James Priestley, seconded by John Starr, Esq. *Resolved unanimously,*

3. That this Society shall be denominated "The Methodist Missionary Society for the District of Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, and Prince-Edward Island.

On the motion of the Revd. James Man, seconded by Mr. Robert Barry, *Resolved unanimously,*

4. That all Subscribers of *Twenty Shillings*, and upwards, (to be paid quarterly,) shall be Members of this Society.

On the motion of the Revd. James Dunbar, seconded by Mr. Hugh Bell, *Resolved unanimously,*

5. That there shall be a General Meeting of this Society, once in every year, to be held at the time and place of the District Meeting of the Preachers.

N. B. The District Meeting for the ensuing year will be held in Halifax, in the month of June, 1818.

On the motion of the Revd. Stephen Bamford, seconded by Mr. M.G. Black, *Resolved unanimously,*

6. That a General Committee be appointed at every Annual Meeting, consisting of a Treasurer, two Secretaries, and such Members as shall be hereafter named, with power to add to their number, if they deem it expedient, and that all the Itinerant Preachers, and the Stewards of those circuits connected with the Society, shall be considered as Members both of the Society, and General Committee.

On the motion of the Revd. Wm. Crocombe, seconded by the Revd. Mr. Burt, *Resolved unanimously,*

7. That this Meeting respectfully recommends to the Preachers, and other friends of the Methodist Missions in this district, who shall be disposed to concur in promoting the designs of the Society, the immediate formation of local Committees in their respective circuits, and that such local Committees shall act in conjunction with the General Committee, and shall be bound to observe the general rules of this Society.

On the motion of the Revd. Sampson Busby, seconded by the Revd. Mr. Payne, *Resolved unanimously,*

8. That the local Committees shall consist of all the Itinerant Preachers, of the Stewards of the circuit, of the members of the General Committee, who belong to each circuit in which such local Committee shall be formed, and of such other persons as they shall think proper to associate with themselves.

On the motion of the Revd. John Fishpool, seconded by the Revd. Robert Alder, *Resolved unanimously,*

9. That wherever a local Committee shall be formed, a Sub-Treasurer and Collectors shall be appointed, that the Collectors shall solicit subscriptions in their respective neighbourhoods, and shall also call on subscribers for their subscriptions.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Revd. William Bennett, *Resolved unanimously,*

10. That the Collectors shall pay their respective Sub-Treasurers,

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whatever sums they may have received, once in every quarter; that every Sub-Treasurer, shall remit to the general Treasurer, the monies so received by him on or before the first day of April in each and every year; and that the said Treasurer, after deducting the incidental expenses of this Society, shall remit the remainder to the Treasurer of the Missionary Fund in London appointed by the Methodist Conference, immediately after each annual Meeting.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Rev. Stephen Bamford, *Resolved unanimously*.

11. That the Methodist Missionary Committee in London be requested to direct, that the subscriptions remitted from this Society shall be published in their Annual Report, in such a manner, as that it may clearly appear what portion of the total sum has been raised in each circuit separately; and that an Annual Report shall be published by this Society, with an account of Donations and Subscriptions, and that the said account shall include the name of every person, who has for one year contributed to the funds of the society, five shillings or upwards.

On motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Rev. James Man, *Resolved unanimously*.

12. That John Starr, Esq. be respectfully requested to accept the Office of Treasurer, for the present year.

On the motion of the Rev. Wm. Bennett, seconded by the Rev. Jas. Priestly, *Resolved unanimously*.

13. That Messrs. Hugh Bell, and John A. Barry, be requested to accept the Office of Secretaries for the present year.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by the Rev. James Knowlan, *Resolved unanimously*.

14. That the following Persons shall compose the General Committee for the present year: viz.

All the Itinerant Preachers in the District,

ALSO,

THE STEWARDS,

AND

Halifax.	{	Alexr. Anderson,	Shefflarne	{	Col. Sargent,
		John Starr,			Wm. Sargent,
		Samuel Sellon,			Osborne Doane.
		John McNeil,			
		Charles Loveland,			
		George Nock,			
		Hugh Bell,			
		Martin G. Black,			
		Saml. Lydiard			
		John W. Morris,			
	{	James N. Shannon,	Liverpool.	{	Joshua Newton, Esq.
		John A. Barry.			Robert Barry, Esq.
					John Kirk,
					John Thomas, Esq.
	{			{	Simon Fraser,
					J. Bell,
	{			{	Simeon L. Perkins,

Horton. { Jonathan Crane, Esq.
Richard Carry,
S. Dennison, Esq.
Michael Smith,
John Stark,
Charles Rathbon,
John Elder.

Annapolis. { Col. S. V. Bayard,
Abel Beales
S. Sloakham,
Isaac Longley,
Joseph Bent,
James Rice,
D. Ditmars, Esq.

St. John. { Alexr. McLeod, Esq.
John Ferguson,
William Till.

**Fred-
rickton.** { J. Clarke,
Jas. Stewart,
Moses Coburn.

Cumberland. { Thomas Roach, Esq.
William Wells, Esq.
Edw. Dickson, Esq.
Jos. Avard,
John Chapman, Esq.
Robert Keech.

**New-
port.** { John Allison, Esq.
James Smith,
Anthony Shaw.

**Rems-
heg.** { George Oxley, Esq.
Thomas Hustice, Esq.
Stephen Canfield,
John Piers,
John Black, Esq.
Levi Stevens.

P. E. Island. {

On the motion of the Rev. W. Bennett, seconded by the Rev. W. Crocombe, *Resolved unanimously,*

That the cordial thanks of the Society be given to the Rev. W. Black, for the satisfactory manner in which he has conducted the business of this Meeting.

N. B. A general Subscription Book will be kept by each of the Secretaries, by whom, as well as all the other Members of the Committee, Donations and Subscriptions will be thankfully received.—The *smallest* sum will be gratefully accepted.

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AN ADDRESS, &c.

CONCERNING the general necessity and utility of Missionary efforts, we are persuaded that only one opinion can pervade the minds of those, who reverence the Holy Scriptures, and who love the Truth as it is in Jesus. This remark receives a striking corroboration from the number of Missionary Societies which have been instituted before and since the commencement of the eighteenth century:—among which we shall notice the following.

The *Congregatio de Propagandâ Fide*, of the Romish Church, founded by Pope Gregory XV. A. D. 1622, has sent Missionaries to different parts of the earth.

The *Danish Society*, founded by Frederick IV. A. D. 1705, (through the instrumentality of Swartz, Gericke, &c. names which will ever be revered through the Christian World,) has met with astonishing success.

We next mention the *Unitas Fratrum*, or *Moravians*, who have astonished the world by their humility, zeal, and patient endurance of hardships, as well as by their ministerial labours; so that, as one observes, they have done much

“ To plant the T
And make it flourish

“ fields of ice,
snow.”

The frigid and the torrid zones the fruit of their labours. *Ceylon, Java, Amboyna, and Formosa*, are places in which Missionaries, from the *Dutch Missionary Society*, have laboured, and not without success.

Lapland has engaged the attention of the *Swedish Society*.

The *Edinburgh Missionary Society*, has established Missions among the *Susooos* in *Africa*.

Mount Caucasus bears honourable witness to the labours of the late pious and learned Mr. *Brunton*.

The laudable exertions of the *London Missionary Society*, composed of different denominations of Christians, are too well known to need comment in this place.

The Reverend Messieurs *Carey, Marshman, and Ward*, Baptist Missionaries at *Serampore*, have done and are still doing much towards diffusing the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, both by their Missionary labours, and the various translations which they have made, of almost every part of the Holy Bible.

The *Church Missionary Society*, under the direction of several eminently pious Ministers of the Church of England, have sent several pious men, chiefly foreigners, who have chosen for the field of their labours different parts of *Africa* and the *East*. This Society, says a late author, is in its infancy; but as it is well organized and liberally supported, there is every reason to believe, that much fruit shall be produced.

Thus it appears, from the preceeding detail, that it is not our wish nor design to depreciate the labours of other Christian Societies : they all have their separate excellencies ; and all of them have been useful. So far are we from considering them as rivals in that good cause in which we have embarked, that we rejoice to recognize them as powerful auxiliaries ; and we desire to feel no other emulation than that of provoking one another to love and good works. We have the satisfaction of knowing, that God highly approves of every institution, which has for its object, the extension of peace and good will among men.

But while we have no wish to detract from that praise which is due to others ; yet, truth and justice oblige us to say, that the Methodists have neither been the last, nor the least, in Missionary undertakings. They have at different times, employed about 180 Missionaries in foreign stations. Many of these after combatting the powers of darkness, with a zeal and fidelity which demand praise and merit imitation, have finished the contest in holy triumph ; and we have no doubt, but that now they are crowned with laurels which fade not away. This cause, to them, was dearer than life ; for they counted not their lives dear unto themselves, so that they might be the humble but honoured instruments of saving man from eternal ruin.

At this day about 120 Methodist Missionaries are labouring in foreign stations, in order to accomplish the same glorious purpose.

It is now natural to inquire from whence have these benevolent men received their pecuniary supplies ? They have received them partly from assistance afforded them by those among whom they have laboured ; partly from public collections, which have been made annually in the principal Methodist Chapels in England ; and the remainder has been chiefly supplied by the indefatigable labours of the late pious and learned *Thomas Coke*, L. L. D. His praise is in all the churches. We cannot, at present, nor indeed at all, do justice to the labours and excellencies of this good man :—suffice it to say, that for many years in order to promote the extension of Missions, and thereby save the souls of men, he submitted to the drudgery of begging from door to door,—sometimes he met with a welcome reception, but often with a mortifying repulse. Yet, when denied, traduced, and reviled, he was unappalled ; and in the cause of Missions, his zeal was, at all times, invincible.

Since the Doctor's death, it has become indispensable either to abandon the Methodist Missions, or to have recourse to other measures for their sustenance ; and no means seemed so likely to answer every good purpose, as the formation of Missionary Societies.

These have been instituted in various parts of England. On these occasions, rich and poor have come forward, with a readiness and munificence, that have done honour to their feelings, as Britons ; to their profession, as Christians ; and to their tenets, as Protestants. But yet, greater exertions are requisite ; and a conviction that it is *our*

duty and privilege to be co-workers with our friends at home, in this good cause, has induced us to attempt the formation of a *Methodist Missionary Society* in Nova-Scotia, which is to be extended to New-Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. But we cannot enlarge: our limits will not permit.—A word to the wise is sufficient. Entertaining a just sense of the known liberality of the Inhabitants of these Provinces, which was never yet appealed to in vain; and convinced, as we are, of the goodness of our cause and the purity of our motives, we confidently leave the issue with *Him*, who is the Author, Exemplar, and Patron of Missions; and with *them*, who not only pray “Thy Kingdom come,” but, who know it to be more blessed to give than receive.

Anxious to afford to our benevolent friends in this country, some information on the subject of Missions in general, and the state of the Methodist Missions in particular, we here subjoin for their perusal, an interesting extract from the Report of the Methodist Missionary Society, recently formed in Manchester, England, which is the latest in our possession: as also their address to the public.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT.

As the rise and progress of the METHODIST MISSIONS have been frequently and fully stated to the Public, the Committee deem it sufficient, briefly to observe, that, whereas in 1785 there were only five foreign Missionaries employed by the Conference, there are now, in the British Dominions, at home and abroad, no less than *one hundred and sixteen*; of which number *seventy*, at least, are constantly labouring in foreign stations.

The prospects beginning to open before our Missionaries in the EAST, have, since the formation of this Society, become more encouraging, and their success has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations formed by the friends of that Mission.—At *Bombay*, where brother Harvard was detained for some months, on account of Mrs. H.'s health, a people was found, who gladly attended upon his Ministry, and received the gospel with readiness of mind: and previous to his departure from thence, to proceed to his original destination, he had the satisfaction of seeing a diffusion of religious light, awakening the minds of many to a serious concern for their salvation. These earnestly desired that a Methodist Missionary might be established among them. The General Committee, in London, has made provision for meeting this desire, by sending a missionary who is now on his way to reside in that place.

At *Madras*, a member of our society, who, for some years, had been a resident there, finding no companions in his way to heaven, was, in the genuine spirit of primitive Christianity, resolved, by the bles-

ing of God, to make some ; and for this purpose he began to hold meetings for reading the holy scriptures, religious conversation, and prayer, which were productive of the most salutary effects ; so that a society of lively Christians was formed in that city. When the Ceylon Gazette had announced to the public, the arrival of our missionaries on that island, they immediately addressed an affectionate letter to them, earnestly requesting that some one might be spared to minister unto them the word of Life. A Missionary is prepared to sail on the 15th of the present month to this station, where he will find an open door, and a prospect of great usefulness.

In the island of *Ceylon*, the Lord has succeeded the labours of his servants at the different stations which they occupy, in a very gracious manner. Congregations have been raised in every place, which stately attend upon their ministry.—Schools are opened, and filled with the children of natives, and settlers, who are learning to read the gospels, and are instructed in the principles of the Christian Religion.—Societies have been formed, and that discipline established, which, in Europe and America, has been so conducive, among the Methodists, to the extension of the kingdom of Christ, and to the spiritual growth and improvement of thousands.

It may be satisfactory to state here, some remarkable instances of the power of religion, which have occurred in the conversion of both *Pagans* and *Mussulmans* in that island. That of *Petrus Panditi Sacarus*, a *Budhist Priest* of considerable eminence, is one of the former. This man is now employed in translating the New Testament into the *Cingalese* and the *Pali languages*, for the benefit of the *Candian* nation, which has lately been brought under the British dominion ; a people inhabiting the whole interior of the island, and characterized as a mild, but inquisitive race of men, well disposed to receive the truth when they can be made acquainted with it. He also preaches the gospel with much zeal and acceptance to his countrymen at Culambo, and in the neighbouring villages ; fifteen of which are regularly visited every Sabbath day by our Missionaries and their assistants ; men, whom the Lord has already raised up to act in concert with them, and under their direction. In some of these villages, a very extraordinary reformation has taken place amongst the inhabitants, in regard to the religious observance of the Sabbath. Formerly this holy day was marked by no distinction in their minds or manners, but esteeming it common, they sought their own pleasures, and did their own works. Now, they assemble in crowds to hear the Missionary read and expound the word of God, and the day is observed with as much apparent respect as in any village in Protestant Countries. Thus mightily has the word of God, already prevailed over heathenish superstition and habitual vice. Another is that of brother *Clough's* interpreter, a fine youth 24 years of age, who has been well educated, and speaks five different languages with fluency. Of him brother Clough has said, " His flames with zeal for the glory of Christ, and the salvation of his



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"countrymen, and there is no doubt, that he will become an useful
"minister of God in spreading the gospel in the East." Men like
these may be regarded as chosen vessels, and expected to be of ex-
tensive use to the missionary cause in that heathen country. They
are well acquainted with the false religion of the natives—with their
customs—habits—prejudices—manners—views—and modes of thinking;
and they will be able to meet them with a light, which will expose
their folly and enormity, and thus they will become all things to all
men, that they may save the more. A *Mussulman* who has cordially
embraced Christianity, and felt its saving efficacy, is most exemplary
in his zeal, and spends much time in reading the scriptures to his ac-
quaintance, of the *Mohammedan* superstition: And although his life is
in constant peril from the malice of the wicked, of which he is well aware,
yet he remains unmoved; and on being asked one day, "Are you not
afraid?" he replied, "Why should such a man as I, fear? God is with
me!"

In *Columbo*, which is the seat of government, the Missionaries have
purchased land, on which to build a chapel, a dwelling house, a large
school, and a printing office; and when the accounts came away, 6000 six
dollars, amounting to 480 pounds sterling, were subscribed towards the
expence. It is with sentiments of gratitude we have to observe, that the
government of this island, has been friendly to all the plans of our mis-
sionaries, and has furnished every facility in its power to the success of
their exertions. The Gentlemen in offices, both civil, ecclesiastical and
military, have been their friends and counsellors, and have subscribed lib-
erally to the erection of our chapel and school-house. When men like
these, in their exalted characters, come forward, and cheerfully give their
influence to the cause of Christ, in heathen countries, surely his followers
at home, who sit under their own vines, and enjoy all the luxuries of reli-
gion in this christian land, will neither withhold their pence nor their
pounds, their prayers, nor their missionaries. In one of the letters lately
received from this station, we have the following facts stated, which can-
not fail to afford pleasure to every loyal and pious mind. "We consecra-
ted Sunday June the 4th, the last anniversary of the birth-day of our
amiable sovereign George the 3d, to the establishment of the first Sun-
day School in this island. This has given us favour in the eyes of many,
and greatly helped on the subscription to our place of worship. We
have upwards of 250 children, and 20 gratuitous teachers, who most
cheerfully engage to instruct them every Lord's day. We have the use
of the late *Theatre* for our school room, and a better place could not
have been chosen; it being so very central and commodious."

It is with regret the Committee has to record the loss of another Mis-
sionary in the Eastern department of this work, viz. brother *Ault*. His
talents were originally good, and before he offered himself for the Mission-
ary service, they were much improved by his having laboured in this coun-
try, for five years as a Travelling Preacher, so that he entered upon his
great work with advantage at *Batavia*. Here he laboured with

figable diligence and exemplary zeal for the salvation of the Heathens and Mussulmans, many of whom held him in high esteem, and some of them were greatly benefited by his instructions. He had made considerable progress in learning the *Tamul language*, and had formed eight shools for the instruction of the children of the natives. He was venerated, and beloved by the most respectable of his countrymen, settled in that station; they watched over him in his affliction, and supplied his wants with the tenderest attention. When he was removed, they attended his funeral, and embalmed his memory with their tears. One of them, with brotherly affection, has recorded the feelings and expressions of his last hours, and closed his account in the following terms. "By his amiable disposition, correct conduct, and great usefulness, he so gained the respect and esteem of every one here, both European and native, that his death is not only lamented, as that of a worthy individual, but is considered and allowed to be, a severe, and perhaps, an irreparable loss to the cause, which has for its object, the propagation of Christianity, among all classes of people in this quarter."

We have, at the *Cape of Good Hope*, one missionary employed, at which place a small Society is formed, and a school is opened for youth. Another is on his way to this station, who is directed to advance farther into the country, and to devote his labours principally among the *Hottentots*, and other natives of *Africa*, in the neighbourhood of *Cape Town*.

We are aware that much good has already been done in the south of *Africa*, among the different heathen tribes which either inhabit, or range abroad in that desert country; and we sincerely congratulate the Society which has sent out and supported those missionaries, whose labours have been thus honoured. We rejoice in their success, and earnestly pray that they may increase a thousand fold. But the field is extensive, and requires a large addition of labourers; which consideration will exclude any idea of rivalry, in every objectionable sense of that term; We wish also to acquit ourselves of those obligations under which, as a body of christians, we conceive ourselves to be laid, to spread those doctrines of the gospel, which we have found to be the power of God unto salvation; and in the light and comfort of which, thousands in Europe and America are now walking.

Our society at *Sierra Leone*, has increased to 100 members, and the congregation is large. Here too, is a school connected with the mission, and not less than 80 negro children are taught to read the word of God, and are thus instructed in the principles of *Christianity*.

The work in the *West India* isles, appears to be generally prospering, and the members in society are at present 17,850 which is 1,664 more than the last year.*

To christians, inhabitants of this highly favoured country, the wants and wishes of the heathen cry with loud and earnest voice, "Come over and help us." Had we 50 more Missionaries prepared to go, and funds to

* Later accounts state their numbers at about 19,000.

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pay their passage to *Ceylon*, in that island alone, they are needed, and would be joyfully received. Of this, the committee has been assured from the best authority. What, then, must be the need of the countless multitudes on the *Indian* continent, millions of whom know not the name of Christ; but who, nevertheless, dissatisfied with their religion, and unhappy in themselves, are anxiously enquiring, "Who will shew us any good?" In some places, where parts of the Holy Scriptures, translated into the native dialect, have been distributed, the poor people have exclaimed. "We want teachers to explain these writings. Let us hear more of these good things."

The general Committee have received very pressing invitations to send missionaries to some parts of the *European* continent, and also to the island of *St. Domingo*, where the President *Pction* has acknowledged the great want of Christian Instruction. One Missionary is prepared to go to this Island.*

In the town of *Brussels*, a few of our countrymen who know the importance of the gospel, have settled for commercial pursuits, and are anxious to obtain a Methodist Ministry, for the benefit of all who understand the English language there. Aware that this may become an important station, from whence the spread of scriptural christianity may be extended through the continent, it has been resolved to send a missionary there as soon as possible. An old Roman Catholic church, which, in the days of the revolution, had been converted into a granary, may now be procured for a small annual rent, and fitted up as a place of worship at a trifling expence, so that accommodation will be cheaply procured. Here the light of pure religion will again shine, and from hence spread far.

Distinguished, however, with success, as our missionaries have been in their official characters, and flattering as are our prospects the general state of the moral world is such as to demand our continued, and, if possible, our increased exertions. *Asia and Africa*, besides a large part of *America*, are under the degrading superstitions of Paganism and Mahommedanism. Nearly 200,000,000 of our fellow men are deluded by the false Prophet Mahommed. And about 600,000,000 more are bowing down to stocks and stones, the work of their own hands. What mind can, unappalled, contemplate the endless train of domestic, social and personal evils attendant on these vile superstitions? This cruel, all-devouring monster, spares no age, no sex, no condition. And as to the rest, they are Jews or professors of Christianity. But amongst the latter, who have the light of revelation, how much ignorance, superstition, and wickedness, is yet to be removed, before the Christian religion can appear in its native simplicity and purity; and what can counteract this evil influence, and exhibit the beauty of holiness, but the labours of the faithful Missionary? Waving other views, for the

* N. B. Two Missionaries have been sent to *St. Domingo* since the publication of this report.

moment, an enquiry into the state of the *heathen*, will be found sufficient to excite compassion. Their *worship* is impure, cruel, degrading, enough to make us ashamed of our common nature. The sun, the moon, the stars, the human form, stocks, stones, animals, the vilest reptiles these, these are your gods, O Gentile nations! As to the vices of the heathen, these, had we no other criterion by which to judge, we might learn from the nature of their worship. But we see them exhibited in the lives and manners of the heathen at home. If, indeed, the sword of civil justice, with all its authority, the word God with all its allurements and all its terrors, the gospel ministry, with all its power and importance, reason with all her light and advantages, conscience with all its stings and reproaches, and the lives of christians with all their charms, are insufficient to restrain individuals from vice, what must be the state of those in *Pagan* lands? where the criminal in many cases is his own judge where the lamp of revelation never shone, or where the light is extinguished, where pious teachers are unknown, where degraded reason is without a guide, where the eyes of the understanding are closed, where conscience is sealed by habitual sin, and where an universal corruption of manners prevails?

The Committee feel the more anxious for the benighted heathen, because the cases of many of them are such, as to be beyond the reach of aid from the British and Foreign Bible Society, one of the noblest Institutions ever devised by man for the relief and improvement of his species. There are millions of them who *cannot read*, and to whom the scriptures alone can be of no use, while they remain in that condition. Nor is this all, for there are millions both in *Africa*, and *Asia*, among whom there is no *written language*, and where none but Missionaries can do anything. Under such circumstances, the work must all be done by oral instructions. With these views, it is affecting to be informed, by a list of Missionaries lately published, that there have not yet 250 PROTESTANT *Missionaries* gone forth, under the direction of the different sects of Christians in *Europe*, to instruct and evangelize the many hundreds of millions of Pagans and Mussulmans. In the grand work before us, and in which so many feel deeply interested, we are encouraged to proceed by the *example* of the brightest characters of the present and of former ages. The *Evangelists*, and the *Apostles*, were all Missionaries; not only in *spirit*, but in *practice*. And the *People*, far from being indifferent and inactive, lighted their lamps, at the missionary torch of the Apostles; and becoming lights in the world, they themselves lighted the way, and directed their fallen fellow creatures to eternal glory. Hence, we hear the Apostles commending the Thessalonians for their zeal, "From you," says he, "sounded out the word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place, your faith toward God, is spread abroad." These words in a restricted sense may be applied to *British Christians*. The members of the *Establishment*, the *Knapists*, the *Moravians*, the *Independents*, all seem to be provo-

king each other to love and good works, in the cause of missions. It would therefore ill become that Society of Christians, with whom the present revival of experimental religion commenced at the beginning of the last century, to relax its efforts, and to "lose the things which it has wrought."

ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

The present age so fertile in political revolutions, has been not less strikingly marked by changes in the religious world, of a character equally energetic, but whose effects will outreach them in extent and duration, as they surpass them in beneficence. The commencement of that great revival of religion in these lands, which was instrumentally effected by men, whose names can never be erased from the eternal records of the church, is almost within the memory of some living. Yet its influence has already been felt through almost every part of the British empire; and it is still daily developing its effects upon the moral state of man both at home and abroad. The springs of that powerful engine which the first instruments of this great work directed against the ignorance and the vices of mankind are, perhaps, but now only acquiring their full play: and the system begins to move with accelerated energy and more diffused effect.

Appeals to the Bible, as the only standard of faith and practice, gave birth to Protestantism; and by appeals to the Bible, and to the scriptural formularies of Protestant churches, England, the greatest Protestant state, was roused from its slumber, the substance was given to the sign of piety, and the body to its shadow. With the reviving spirit of religion, compassion for the heathen, long neglected by Protestants, revived also; and as religious feeling gives rapid birth to action, their conversion, together with the instruction of the distant colonies of the empire, was early attempted; and this important work has been prosecuted to the present day with increasing ardour.

In efforts of this kind, the METHODISTS, in the religious Connection first established by the Rev. JOHN WESLEY, have long taken a distinct, and very zealous part; and their success has been encouraging. In 1769, two preachers were sent to America, and the result of this Mission has been the formation of Christian Societies on that continent, which at present include above 214,000 members. The *West-Indian* Mission was next established. In 1786, the Rev. DR. COKE, who was proceeding to America with three Missionaries, of whom one only had been destined for the West Indies, the others being designed to labour in Newfoundland, was driven by stress of weather, into the island of Antigua. There the Missionaries found such opportunities of usefulness, as required their united and immediate exertions; and the Mission in that and other islands at present employs thirty-one Missionaries.

A Mission has been established on the *African Continent*; where

besides the establishment of two Lancasterian Schools, a society of ninety-six members, and a congregation of 400 persons, have been collected. A very effectual aid has also been afforded to that great work (great whether religiously or politically considered,) the illumination and civilization of the darker parts of *Ireland* by the appointment of Missionaries who preach in the native language of the people ; and, by whose zealous and extensive labours, numbers, who were involved in the deepest vice and superstition, have been turned to righteousness. Thirteen Travelling Missionaries are successfully employed in this department. So long as the war lasted, seven Preachers who spake the *French* language, fulfilled, in the noblest sense, the precept, " Love your enemies," by " holding forth the word of life " to the numerous *Prisoners of war* in the different depôts in this country.

From the Western world we now turn our eyes to the *East*, where a recent decision of the Legislature has opened a more effectual door for the introduction of the Gospel among sixty millions of British subjects, darkened and corrupted by the grossest Idolatry. In the year 1813, six Missionaries were appointed by the Methodist Conference, to accompany the late Rev. DOCTOR COKE, to the island of Ceylon, where there are 500,000 nominal Christians, as sheep without a shepherd, and a million of Pagans. And though it pleased the Almighty, in his inscrutable providence, to remove the Doctor when he was within a few leagues of the scene of his intended labours, yet we are happy to state, the Missionaries were received with the utmost cordiality and kindness by his Excellency the Governor of Bombay, and also by his Excellency Governor Brownrigg, and other persons of the first respectability in the island of Ceylon. They have commenced their labours at *Jaffnapatam*, *Batticoloe*, *Mattura*, and *Point de Galle* : and have, at the recommendation of his Excellency the Governor, opened Schools at these respective places, and hope soon to be able personally to address the heathen in the *Tamil* and *Cingalese* languages. Extensive as is this field, it is hoped that it is but a step to the neighbouring continent, where the vast population of *Hindustan* have a double claim upon our demands, both as benighted Pagans and as British subjects. And a missionary has been sent to the important station of *New South Wales*, from whence a very pressing application has lately been received.

That these Missionaries have laboured with success, will be partly seen by the following extracts of Letters received from them.—" Many of the Brahmins are very intelligent men, well acquainted with general history and oriental Literature. I have conversed with them at different times, and been surprised to find that they are not so inimical to the spread of Christianity as is generally represented. They say it is written in their books, that a Religion will come from the West, and prevail throughout the world. On my asking what Religion they thought it would be," they replied, " The Christian Religion."

Another of the Missionaries writes :—" The natives are a quiet inoffensive people, but grossly ignorant of divine things. I preach to them by an

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Interpreter every day in their Bazaars, and feel happy in this blessed work. The Lord has truly converted my Interpreter, who is a remarkably fine young man, about twenty four years of age. He speaks with fluency five different languages, and is very zealous in spreading the kingdom of Christ. I doubt not but he will become an useful minister of the gospel, and then he will be equal to a host of Missionaries from a foreign country."

The same Missionary says in another Letter :—" We have lately had a remarkable instance of the power of grace, in the conversion of one of the leading Priests of Budhu, who is now employed in translating the Holy Scriptures into the Pali language. An account of this I drew up at the request of the Governor, who caused it to be inserted in the Ceylon Gazette, a copy of which I have sent to England."

Letters have since been received from a person in high authority, most earnestly requesting, that forty or fifty more Methodist Missionaries may be sent to Ceylon; as their discipline—and their methods of instruction, are so admirably adapted to the state of the natives.

Efforts and plans so extensive must necessarily involve a proportionate expence. The average income of the Methodist Missionary Fund has not been found equal to its regular disbursements; and in January, 1813, a debt of more than six thousand pounds was owing to the Treasurer. This debt, which zeal had contracted, was laid at the foot of Charity; and the appeal was not made in vain. By an extraordinary collection, the whole of it has been liquidated; and, confident as we are in the strength of our resources, and the liberality of the public, we look for such a *permanent increase* of the funds as shall not only meet the existing demands, but afford a large surplus to be applied in giving a still wider diffusion to the "glorious Gospel of the blessed God."

It is with this view, that a *Methodist Missionary Society*, for the Manchester District, has been established :—a measure which appeared to be equally called for by increasing opportunities for evangelizing heathen nations; by the excellent example of other Christian Societies; and by the loss of the personal exertions of the late Rev. Dr. COKE, who for years had stooped to the very drudgery of charity, and gratuitously pleaded the cause of a perishing world from door to door. Whilst our little band of Missionaries go forth against the Idolatry of the East, and whilst more than one hundred other Methodist Missionaries, in different parts of the world, are immediately engaged in the same contest with the powers of darkness, it devolves upon us who remain at home to give effect to the necessary financial arrangements, and to furnish the sinews of this holy war.

We therefore solicit the aid of the public at large,—either in donations for the particular purpose of meeting the large expence of our Missionaries in Asia, or of supporting our very promising schools for Negro Children in Africa, or in regular subscriptions, Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, or Annual, for the general work, according to the plans of the Methodist Missionary Society. In this we are encouraged by former experience, and by the conviction that both the objects proposed, and the means employed to effect them, are such as must ensure the

approbation of all who love our Lord Jesus Christ, and the souls purchased by his blood. The doctrines, discipline, and character of the Methodists are before the world; and, if it has pleased God by them to moralize so great a portion of the community at home, and to diffuse the vigour of spiritual life through every part of the land; if too their labours among the heathen have been eminently owned of God! and if this great work at home and abroad has been effected without any counterbalance of evil, civil or religious: we are emboldened to rely upon the support of the pious and benevolent at large, and to offer the Methodist Missionary Society as a proper and effectual medium, through which their bounty may be distributed to the heathen.

To the Methodist Societies and Congregations we particularly address ourselves. Distinguished as you have ever been for zeal and charity, you will not forfeit our confidence. You are yourselves, as a People, the fruit of Missionary labours. Your great founder was himself a Missionary to the heathen, and was proceeding on that errand of love, when he received those clear views of the doctrines of the Gospel, which he afterwards preached at home with such distinguished success. Your societies, your chapels, your privileges and enjoyments, are all the results of that *home mission* which God has crowned with so great a blessing; and, in the full enjoyment of these riches of grace, we know you feel for the emptiness and wants of others. The Christian world moves at this moment in one grand concert, to extend the dominion of the Son of God; and you are summoned to new and bolder efforts. The hand of God marks out your way; that hand which has been with you from the beginning. The voice of providence calls; and calls, we are persuaded, to a willing people. The object is to send forth labourers into fields "white for the harvest." And what will this cost you? Collectively the exertion will be great, but individually small:—a few pence weekly, a few shillings or pounds annually, as God hath blessed you, abstracted from superfluities and the calls of artificial wants; a mite cast into that treasury of the Lord which is to furnish the bread of life to myriads of dying men. Let the love of Christ constrain you. Let every man ask "What can *I* do in this glorious work?" "what personally? what by my influence upon my Children, my Servants, my Neighbours, my Friends?"—*Pious Females*, to you we particularly appeal. You owe much to Christianity, and have now an opportunity of acknowledging your obligation, in a way highly honourable to yourselves, incalculably beneficial to myriads of your own sex, and well-pleasing to God. Be you the eloquent advocates and active Supporters of the Missionary Cause.—*Young People* of our Congregations and Societies, we also look to you for assistance. What many of you do waste in folly, and devote to purposes of vanity or vice, let it be your resolution to consecrate to God, and to the extension of his work, so as to "lay up a good foundation for the time to come." Let all remember that the motives are of the strongest nature; and that you are not called to help those who are not willing, to the utmost of their power, to help themselves. Many even of the poor Blacks in the West Indies regularly and cheerfully contribute, out of their scanty and hard-gotten earnings, a weekly subscrip-

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tion in their Classes, besides *Quartermen*, for the support of their beloved Missionaries. And will you, whose resources are beyond all comparison more abundant and whose privileges are much greater than theirs, be outstripped by Negro Slaves in liberality and zeal? God forbid; Your first duty is, of course, to exert yourselves, as they do, for the maintenance of Religion and its Ordinances among yourselves. This is your just debt. But many, yea most of you, by a little prudent contrivance and benevolent self-denial, may be not only just, but generous, and secure for yourselves the promised *blessedness of giving*. The smallest Contribution will be thankfully received; while the largest Subscriptions or Donations will, in such a cause, be well and usefully bestowed. The work is God's. It bears his seal, and has his blessing. Give it therefore the help of your united prayers, and liberalities, and influence; and become co-workers with God in setting up that kingdom of his Son, which is to fill the earth with righteousness and peace.

A List of the Stations of the Methodist Missionaries in Foreign Parts.

I. EUROPE.

1. *Gibraltar*. Thomas Davies.
2. *Bouville and Periere*, in France. To be supplied by the French Preachers in the Guernsey District.
2. *Brussels*. Armand de Kerpezdron.

II. ASIA.

4. *Ceylon*, including the following stations :—viz, *Colombo, Jaffnapatan, Batticaloe, Point de Galle, and Matura*.
James Lynch, George Erskine, Thomas Squance, Benjamin Clough, John McKenny, Samuel Broadbent, Robert Carver, Elijah Jackson, and John Callaway, assisted by A. Armour, and by Pertus Panditta Sekarras.
5. *Madras*. William M. Harvard.
6. *Bombay*. John Horner.
7. *New South Wales*. Samuel Leigh.

N. B. The following Brethren are also appointed as additional Missionaries for Asia, under the direction of the Committee in London: viz. William B. Fox, Thomas Osborne, Robert Newstead, John Barry.

III. AFRICA.

8. *Sierra Leone*. William Davies, Samuel Brown.
9. *Cape of Good Hope*. Barnabas Shaw.

IV. IN AMERICA.

WEST-INDIES.

ANTIGUA DISTRICT.—Samuel P. Woolley, Chairman.

10. *Antigua*. Samuel P. Woolley, Jonathan Payer, John D. Allen, Moses Rayner.

11. *St. Christopher's*. George Johnston, Jeremiah Boothby, William White
Thomas Blackburn, Supernumerary.
12. *St. Eustatius*. William Shrewsbury.
13. *Nevis*. Calvarley Riley.
14. *St. Bartholomews*. Daniel Hillier.
15. *Tortola, and the Virgin Islands*. James Witworth, John Raby, Stephen Swinyard.
16. *Dominica*. William Beacock.
17. *St. Vincent*. Thomas Morgan, William Coultas.
18. *Barbadoes*. William Westerman.
19. *Grenada*. William Sill, George Poole.
20. *Trinidad*. Abraham Whitehouse.
21. *Demarara*. Thomas Tayboys, John Mortier.

JAMAICA DISTRICT.—John Wiggins, Chairman.

22. *Kingston*. John Wiggins, John Shipman, George Jackson.
23. *Spanish Town*. John Lewis, junr. William Ratcliffe.
24. *Morant Bay*. John Burgar.
25. *Bove Rock*. John Colmar.

BAHAMA DISTRICT.—William Wilson, Chairman.

26. *New Providence*. William Wilson, sen. William Dowson ; William Turton, John Rutledge, supernumeraries.
27. *Elathera*. Joseph Ward.
28. *Harbour Island and Abaco*. Roger Moore.
29. *Long Island*. Michael Head.

ST. DOMINGO.

30. *Port au Prince*. John Brown, sen. James Catts.

BERMUDA.

31. *Bermuda*. William Wilson, jun. William Ellis.

NOVA-SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK AND CANADA.

William Bennett, Chairman and general Superintendent.

32. *Halifax*. James Priesley, William Black, supernumerary, James Knowlan, supernumerary.
33. *Liverpool*. William Crocombe.
34. *Shelburne*. Adam Clark Avar, James Man, supernumerary.
35. *St. Stephen's*. Duncan McColl.
36. *Yarmouth*. One wanted.
37. *St. John*. Stephen Bamford.
38. *Fredericton, &c.* William Burt.
39. *Annapolis*. Sampson Busby, and one wanted.
40. *Cumberland*.
41. *St. John's*.
42. *St. John's*.

43. *Newport*. George Miller.
 44. *Lunenburg, Petit Rivierre, and Broad Cove*. George Orth; German Missionary, and one to be sent.
 45. *Manchester*.
 46. *Bay de Chaleur*. One wanted.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

47. *Charlotte Town*. John Strong.
 48. *Tryon and Bedeque*. John Fishpool.

THE CANADAS.

49. *Quebec*. John Hick.
 50. *Montreal*. James Booth, Richard Pope.
 51. *Kingston*. Thomas Catterick, and one wanted,
 52. *Cornwall*. Henry Pope.
 53. *Melburne*. Richard Williams, and one wanted.
 54. *William Henry*. John de Putron, French Missionary.
 55. *Fort Wellington*. One wanted.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

56. *St John's*. John Pickavant, Ninian Barr.
 57. *Carbonear*. George Cubit, Richard Knight.
 58. *Blackhead*. John Walsh, Thomas Hickson.
 59. *Port-de-Grave*. John Lewis.
 60. *Island-Cove and Pertican*. John Bell, John Haigh.
 61. *Bonavista*. James Hickson.

The Number of Members in the Methodist Societies, as published in 1816.

In Great-Britain.....	191,680
Ireland.....	28,542
France.....	55
At Brussels.....	10
Gibraltar.....	63
Sierre Leone.....	129
The Cape of Good Hope.....	42
In Ceylon.....	20
The West-Indies.....	18,938
Nova-Scotia, &c.....	1,824

*Total number of Members under the care of the }
 British and Irish Conferences. }.....241,319*

Number of Members in the U. S. of America, in 1815.

Whites.....	167,978
Coloured.....	43,187
Total.....	211,165

Total number of Members in the Methodist Societies }452,484
throughout the world.

It will occur to those who have any knowledge of the discipline of the Methodists, that the above numbers compose but a very small part of their regular hearers. It may here, however, be necessary to say, that we do not mention these things, in order to arrogate to ourselves any unjust praise. The Committee in Nova-Scotia desire not to forget what the Methodists every where wish to remember, that though a Paul may plant and Appolos water, it is God that giveth the increase.

And we sincerely pray that by whomsoever the gospel of Christ is preached, in its primitive purity, it may constantly be attended with the power and demonstration of God's Holy Spirit, whom we ought to reverence as the Enlightener, Comforter, and Purifier of Men.

Though the success of the Methodist Missionaries in this District, has not been equal to their wishes, yet, they have cause to rejoice, that their labours have not been as water spilt on the ground. In various places, and at different times, they have witnessed the outpouring of the spirit of grace and reformation, in their effects on the hearts and lives of their people: many of them have lived and died triumphing in the faith and hope of the gospel; and many remain as the epistles of their ministry, *known and read of all men*. There are, at present, 15 circuits and stations, containing upwards of 30 chapels; in which 18 regular preachers are appointed to labour. The number of communicants is about 2,000.—Not less than 500 members, in good standing, have removed from Halifax alone, to other parts of the world, since the establishment of a Methodist Society therein.

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